

TASK FORCE TO STUDY MAINE'S HOMELAND SECURITY NEEDS

DRAFT LEGISLATION

JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO SHIFT FUNDING PRIORITIES AND SUPPORT THE EQUITABLE DISBERSEMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDS AS OUTLINED IN UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 21, SPONSORED BY SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL STATES EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY GOALS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-second Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the Second Session, most respectfully present and petition the Congress and the President of the United States as follows:

WHEREAS, the success of our nation's homeland security response strategy relies on the success of our cohesive Federal, State, and local prevention and response efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine's homeland security and emergency preparedness funding has dropped from thirty-five million dollars in 2004 to a projected sixteen million dollars in 2006; and

WHEREAS, a baseline level of funding is necessary for every state and territory to effectively support emergency management, Federal, State and local law enforcement and first responders in the continuation of their rigorous efforts to protect our citizens from security threats and vulnerabilities posed by our ports, borders, agricultural food production and supply, water supply, fuel, and computer systems; and

WHEREAS, every state and territory needs flexibility to address its unique local or regional needs, while working cooperatively to achieve national preparedness goals, and Congress has the responsibility to ensure that all states and territories have the tools necessary to make their own individual contributions to our collective national security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Congress shift spending priorities and enact Senate bill 21, the Homeland Security Grant Enhancement Act of 2005, sponsored by Senator Susan Collins, to provide each state with their fair and reasonable share of homeland security funding as well as public health bioterrorism grant funding, to establish essential capabilities to prevent and respond to the next terrorist attack; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the

President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.